



NATIONAL HIGHWAYS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2023

Inner Lanes



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HONOURING EXCELLENCE EMPOWERING PROGRESS

India's National Highway network stands as a cornerstone of its infrastructure landscape, playing a pivotal role in enhancing connectivity, facilitating trade, and driving economic development. As the country charts its path towards inclusive and sustainable growth, the expansion and modernization of highways have become essential. Recognizing excellence and outstanding contributions in National Highways development reinforces a culture of quality, engineering excellence and accelerates innovation.

The National Highway Excellence Awards, instituted by the Ministry of Road

Transport and Highways, recognize exceptional performance in the National Highway infrastructure development across India. These prestigious awards aim to promote best practices, innovation, and quality in highway construction, maintenance, and safety. More than just ceremonial acknowledgements, the National Highway Excellence Awards not only reflect advancement, precision, and potential of the road sector but also promote a culture of continuous improvement and inspire professionals as well as stakeholders to raise the bar and redefine standards.

In a resounding recognition of commitment

and engineering prowess, the sixth edition of the National Highways Excellence Awards 2023 (NHEA 2023) was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 15th April 2025.

National Highways Excellence Awards 2023 showcased a broad spectrum of categories ranging from Project Management (PPP & EPC), Operations & Maintenance, Green Highways, and individual engineering excellence, each reflecting the commitment to not only build the National Highway infrastructure but create meaningful public assets that will enhance 'ease of living' for the citizens.

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Hon'ble Prime Minister Laid Foundation Stone and Dedicated to Nation Various NH Projects in Tamil Nadu

The Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu on 6th April 2025, laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation various National Highway projects in the state. These projects included laying of Foundation Stone for four-laning of 28 km long Walajapet/Ranipet - Tamil

Nadu/Andhra Pradesh border section of NH-40. Also Hon'ble PM dedicated to the nation 4-lane 29 km long Viluppuram-Puducherry section of NH-332; 57 km long Poondiyanakuppam-Sattanathapuram section of NH-32 and 48 km long Cholapuram-Thanjavur section of NH-36. These projects will connect

many pilgrim centres and tourist places, reduce distance between cities and enable faster access to medical college, hospital and ports. Besides empowering local farmers to transport agricultural products to the nearby markets, these projects will boost economic activity of local leather and small-scale industries.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Inaugurates Rewari Bypass

On 14th April 2025, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 14.4 km long Rewari Bypass in Haryana, marking a significant step in regional connectivity. This project will ease traffic congestion in Rewari, offering

much-needed relief to the daily commuters. By providing a smoother and faster route, the bypass will reduce travel time between Delhi and Narnaul by around one hour. Reflecting the engineering prowess, one of the largest and

heaviest Rail over Bridges (RoBs) in India has also been constructed as a part of this project. Rewari Bypass will also enhance economic activity and improve overall road safety in the region.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Dedicated to Nation and Laid Foundation Stone for Various NH Projects in Andhra Pradesh

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi visited Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh on 2nd May 2025. During his visit, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Dedicated to Nation and laid the foundation stone for various National Highway projects in the state.

The projects that were Dedicated to the Nation included widening to 2-lane with paved shoulder of 44 km long CS Puram-Malakonda section of NH167B; widening to 2-lane with paved shoulder of 46 km long Malakonda-Singarayakonda section of NH167B; widening to 2-lane with paved shoulder of 36 km long Seetharamapuram-Duttaluru section of NH-167; construction of 4-lane Railway-Over-Bridge and subway between Jammalamadugu

section of NH-67; widening & strengthening on NH-42 in Punganur town; widening to 6-lane of 57 km long Renigunta-Poyya-Naidupeta section of NH-71; widening to 4-lane/2-lane with paved shoulder of 4 km long corridor from existing East Break Waters to convent junction section of NH-516C under Port Connectivity.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for various national Highway projects that included widening to 4-lane with paved shoulder 34 km long Gorantla-Hindupur section of NH-716G; widening to 4-lane with paved shoulder of 57 km long Muddanur-B.Kothapalli section of NH-716G; widening to 2-lane with paved shoulder of 62 km long Nandyala-Kurnool/Kadapa Border section

of NH-167K; widening to 2-lane with paved shoulder of 36 km long Mudireddipalle-Kadapa/Nellore Border section of NH-167B; construction of 6-lane elevated corridor including its approaches in Ranastharam Town Portion of NH-16; construction of half clover leaf & ROB at Yerramanchi and Gudipalli Villages across NH-44.

These projects will help to improve road safety measures at key junctions, reducing accidents, ensuring safer travel for all users and provide boost to local economies by attracting businesses, fostering trade, and opening new opportunities for economic development. Additionally, these will reduce traffic congestion and lower vehicle emission, contributing to cleaner environment for the surrounding areas.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Laid Foundation Stone for Road Tunnel on NH-31 Near Varanasi Airport

On 11th April 2025, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the underpass tunnel on NH-31 across the runway of Varanasi Airport.

The unique underground tunnel will run across the runway and serve as an underpass paving the way for the expansion of Varanasi Airport.

The project aims to reinforce Varanasi's position as a vital aviation and logistics hub in the eastern Uttar Pradesh.



Shri Nitin Gadkari Inaugurated and Laid Foundation Stone of Various NH Projects in Madhya Pradesh

On 10th April 2025, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, laid the foundation stone for several National Highway projects in the state of Madhya Pradesh. These projects included a flyover at Rasalpur Junction and three flyovers and underpasses in Shajapur, Kanasiya, and the MIDC Industrial Area along NH-52. Shri Gadkari also laid the foundation stone for seven flyovers and underpasses on the Indore-Gujarat section of NH-59 as well as for the four-laning of the

43 km Sandalpur-Nasrullaganj section on NH-146B. These projects will boost connectivity and streamline traffic flow across Dewas, Sehore, Raisen, and other neighbouring districts across Madhya Pradesh. During his visit, Shri Gadkari also inaugurated a 9 km long 3-lane road with paved shoulders at Bakaner Ghat on NH-52. Designed to reduce black spots, the stretch will help to enhance road safety along the Indore-Khalghat corridor,

while reducing traffic congestion, and improving the commuting experience in the region. Hon'ble Union Minister also inaugurated the four-lane 69 km long Ujjain-Badnawar section and Kheda Khajuria-Suhagadi-Bardiya Amra section of NH-752D. As part of the Ujjain-Garoth Corridor, this section connects Indore and Ujjain to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, offering a seamless travel experience and boosting regional connectivity across states.



Shri Nitin Gadkari Laid the Foundation Stone and Dedicated to Nation Various National Highway Projects in Odisha

On 17th April 2025, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, laid the foundation stone for seven National Highway projects in Odisha. The projects included Four-laning of the 17.4 km Banarpal-Godibandha section of NH-149. The project will boost regional connectivity by linking NH-53, NH-55 & NH-149 through the Angul district. Foundation stone was laid for the Four Laning of 9 km long Baharagora-Singhara Section of NH-49 in Bangriposi Ghat Section in Odisha. The project will enhance road safety and wildlife conservation with 5 Elephant and 14 Animal Underpasses through the Similipal Tiger Reserve buffer zone.

The foundation stone were also laid for Construction of five Vehicle Under Pass and one Flyover in Puintola-Ichchapuram section of NH-16; construction of VUP at Nirgundi Square and LVUP at Chhatia on Chandikhole-Jagatpur-Bhubaneswar Section of NH-16; construction of 4 Lane Viaduct in the Elephant Corridor of Singhara-Binjhabahal section of NH-49; construction of three Vehicle Under Pass and one flyover in Puintola Ichchapuram section of NH-16; construction of additional two-lane new major bridge and its approaches at Palasuni over Gangua Nallah on NH-16 in Odisha.

Hon'ble Minister also Dedicated to the Nation various National highway Projects that included Four Laning of 41.7 km long Talcher-Kamakhyanager section of NH-149 and NH-53 and Vehicular Under Passes at Balikuda, Sikharpur and Badachana on Bhubaneswar-Chandikhole Section of NH-16.

Apart from providing safer and faster movement of vehicles, these projects will boost connectivity between major industrial hubs and ports across states as well as facilitate seamless movement of raw material for local steel plants, coal mines, and thermal power plants in the Talcher and Duburi industrial areas.





Santosh Kumar Yadav, IAS
Chairman, NHAI

Dear Friends,

As we begin the new financial year, I am proud to share that during the previous Financial Year 2024-25, NHAI achieved many milestones that included robust construction of the National Highways along with an all-time high Capital Expenditure.

During FY2024-25, NHAI completed construction of 5,614 km as against the target of 5,150 km. Also during the year, Capital Expenditure by NHAI for development of National Highway Infrastructure reached an all-time high of over Rs. 2,50,000 Crore.

This highest ever capital expenditure in a Financial Year by NHAI includes both Government budgetary support and NHAI's own resources. The overall capital expenditure increased by around 21 percent as compared to Rs. 2,07,000 Crore in the previous FY2023-24 and by around 45 percent as compared to Rs. 1,73,000 Crore in FY2022-23

On the Asset Monetization front, in FY2024-25, NHAI leveraged three modes for monetization that included Toll Operate Transfer (TOT), InvIT and Toll Securitization. NHAI monetized assets for a total of Rs. 28,724 Crore and registered highest ever single round InvIT receipt worth Rs. 17,738 crore during FY2024-25.

Also, I would like to congratulate winners of the National Highway Excellence Awards 2023 for their distinguished contribution in the field of National Highway development.

Lastly, I would like to highlight that NHAI adds exceptional value to people's lives, and we are committed to maintaining this momentum for the holistic growth of the National Highway infrastructure in the country.

Best Wishes,

Santosh Kumar Yadav

“Excellence is a continuous process and not an accident” - Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

National Highway Excellence Awards 2023 reaffirmed that the path to progress is built with courage and commitment. Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari; Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Corporate Affairs, Shri Harsh Malhotra; Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog along with senior officials from MoRTH, NHA and other stakeholders graced the occasion.

The event recognized exemplary contributions in the development of India's National Highway infrastructure. Entries were invited, total 125 were nominated and 22 entries were shortlisted by the jury through multiple assessment rounds and five awards for outstanding projects were awarded in different categories.

In the 'Excellence in Project Management (PPP)' category, the winner M/s H.G. Infra Engineering Ltd. was conferred with the Silver Award for the project Ateli Mandi to Narnaul section of NH-11 & Narnaul Bypass as an economic corridor in Haryana. Under the 'Excellence in Project Management (EPC)' category, M/s Bhartia Infra Projects was awarded the Silver Award for Hakanjuri to Khonsa section of NH-315A in Arunachal Pradesh. The 'Excellence in Operation & Maintenance (Flexible)' category had M/s Nanguneri Kanyakumari Tollway Pvt. Ltd. being bestowed with the Gold Award for Madurai to Kanyakumari of NH-7 Package 4 in Tamil Nadu.

In the Green Highways category, M/s Ashoka Buildcon Ltd. won the Gold award for Kandi to Ramsanpalle section of NH-161 in Telangana and M/s Deccan Tollways Ltd won the Silver Award for Maharashtra-Karnataka border to Sangareddy section of NH-65 in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

The Best Engineer Award was conferred to Shri Navratan, DGM & PD, NHA, Shri Devender Kumar, GM, NHIDCL and Shri Subhash Chandra, RO Itanagar, MoRTH. Special recognition was conferred to Uralungal Labour Contract Co-operative Society (ULCCS) for its unwavering commitment to quality, transparency and social responsibility.



The National Highway Excellence Award 2023 for the 'Best Engineer' was conferred to Shri Navratan, DGM & PD, NHA who has been instrumental in the successful execution of key National Highway projects for Maha Kumbh 2025.



[Click here to watch the Interview](#)

During the day-long event, winners of the पथ चिंतन Hackathon were also felicitated for their innovative ideas and tech-driven solutions that will contribute in transforming India's National Highway infrastructure.

Encouraging adoption of innovative practices in National Highway development, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari in his keynote address said, "Our goal is to raise the bar for quality, ownership & decision-making in road construction. With collective

responsibility, we can create global benchmarks & achieve higher daily construction targets." Addressing the audience, Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Corporate Affairs, Shri Harsh Malhotra said, "Our highways are not just concrete roads, they are the roads of progress for our country. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is going to play a very important role in the vision of Viksit Bharat in 2047." In his address Shri V. Umashankar, Secretary,

MoRTH said, "As we advance rapidly in National Highway development, we are equally prioritizing quality construction. The quality of highways we give right now is the legacy we will be leaving behind for the next generation. Highway construction is not just a technical endeavour, but a collective effort of vision, innovation, and pride. Our goal is to set new benchmarks in engineering excellence and embracing new technologies for highway development, that will contribute towards our shared commitment towards nation-building."



In his address, NHA Chairman Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav highlighted the importance of enhancing collaboration between different stakeholders to achieve excellence in National highway development. He also underlined the collective impact of regular capacity-building of all stakeholders to create a world class National Highway network.

Focused panel discussions with senior officials, academicians from various IITs, representatives of research institutes and industry experts were also held on various aspects of highway development which included deliberations on 'New technologies in Highway Construction and Use of Technology in Quality Control', 'Highway Development in Hilly Areas', 'Rating of DPR Consultants/AEs and Road Construction Agencies' and 'Emergence of Indian Construction Companies as Global Players'.



NHAI Completes Largest InvIT Monetization of Over Rs. 18,000 Crore

The National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT), established by NHAI in 2020, successfully concluded its fourth fund-raising round, achieving an enterprise value of ₹18,380 crore—the largest monetization transaction in India's roads sector. With this, NHIT's total realized value across four rounds now exceeds ₹46,000 crore.

In this round, NHIT has successfully raised ~Rs. 8,340 crore in unit capital from marquee domestic and international investors along with Rs. 10,040 crore in debt from domestic lenders. These funds will be used for the acquisition of National Highway stretches viz. Anakapalle–Narsannapeta, Gundugolanu–Kovvuru & Chittoor–Mallavaram stretches in Andhra Pradesh, Bareilly–Sitapur & Muzaffarnagar–Haridwar stretches in UP/ Uttarakhand,

Gandhidham – Mundra stretch in Gujarat and Raipur – Bilaspur stretch in Chhattisgarh, at a concession value of Rs. 17,738 crore (including a premium of Rs. 97 crore). The investors subscribed to the units through a book-building process at a cut-off price of Rs.133.50 per unit, reflecting a premium over the Dec 31, 2024 NAV of Rs.131.94 per unit.

The issue attracted strong demand from both existing and new investors. Several domestic pension/provident funds viz. EPFO, L&T PF, Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Karamchari PF, Indian Oil Corporation PF; insurance companies including Axis Max Life Insurance; banks/financial institutions including NaBFID, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank and mutual/investment funds like Nippon India, Baroda BNP Paribas, Nuvama and

White Oak Capital participated in the issue. In addition, NHIT's existing foreign investors, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board participated in the book building to their maximum limit. A significant development in this round is subscription by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) of Rs. 2,035 crore. This is the first ever investment by EPFO in an InvIT.

Also, NHAI subscribed to its share of ~15% of the units at the same price. With the completion of this round, NHIT will hold a diversified portfolio of 26 operating toll roads (41 toll plazas) with an aggregate length of 2,345 km spread across 12 states with concession periods ranging between 20 to 30 years.



NHAI Holds First Meeting with Independent External Monitors to Strengthen Transparency

Marking a key step in reinforcing ethical governance across NHAI operations, under the 'Integrity Pact', and on the recommendation of the Central Vigilance Commission, NHAI engaged three Independent External Monitors (IEMs): Dr. Parvez Hayat, IPS (Retd.), Sh. Rajvir Singh, IA&AS (Retd.), and Sh. Arun Kumar Gupta, Former -CMD, SCI.

The first meeting with the three IEMs was held on 10th March 2025 at NHAI Office in New Delhi. The session was attended by NHAI Member (PPP) and other senior officials. During the meeting, an overview of major NHAI initiatives was presented which included the FASTag Program, 1033 Helpline number, and NHAI InvIT.

The discussions also highlighted several IT-driven initiatives, such as the Rajmargyatra app, NHAI One App, Data Lake, and the AI/ML-powered Drone Analytics Monitoring System (DAMS). The IEMs appreciated NHAI's efforts in enhancing the 'Ease of Travel' for the National Highway users.



NHAI Signs Concession Agreement for Guwahati Ring Road, Boosting North-East Connectivity

Taking a significant step towards enhancing infrastructure in the North-East region, NHAI signed a concession agreement with M/s Dineshchandra R Agrawal Infracon Pvt. Ltd. in the presence of NHAI Chairman Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav and senior NHAI officials on 3rd April 2025.

The 121 km-long Guwahati Ring Road will be developed at a cost of ₹5,729 crore on a Build-Operate-Toll (BOT) model with zero grant. The Assam State Government will further contribute ₹1,270 crore for land acquisition, bringing the total project cost to around ₹7,000 crore.

The project will feature three sections that will include 56 km long 4-lane access controlled Northern Guwahati Bypass, widening of the existing 8 km bypass on NH-27 from four lane to six lane, and improvement of existing 58 km long bypass on NH-27. Additionally, a 3 km-long bridge over the Brahmaputra River will be constructed as a part of the project.

The Guwahati Ring Road will provide seamless connectivity to long-distance traffic plying on the East-West Corridor of NH-27, which is the gateway to the North-East Region of the country.

The development of the Ring Road will help to decongest Guwahati City and neighboring North-Eastern states by bypassing major traffic coming from West Bengal/Bihar to Silchar, Nagaland and Tripura. The project will also provide seamless connectivity to major towns in the region including Siliguri, Silchar, Shillong, Jorhat, Tezpur, Jogjopha, and Barpeta.



NHAI to Develop 6-Lane Access Controlled Agra-Gwalior Greenfield Expressway

To strengthen connectivity between the prominent tourist destinations of Agra and Gwalior, NHAI will develop 88 km long, six-lane, access-controlled Agra-Gwalior Greenfield Expressway (NH-719D). On 30th April 2025, NHAI signed a concession agreement with M/s G.R. Infraprojects Ltd., in presence of NHAI Chairman Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav and senior officials from NHAI and concessionaire.

The project will be developed on a Build-Operate-Transfer (Toll) model at a total capital cost of ₹4,613 crore, including land acquisition costs. The concession period of the contract is 20 years, including a construction period of 30 months.

Overlay/strengthening, road safety and improvement measures for the existing National Highway on NH-44 have also been included in the Agra-Gwalior project agreement. The authority will provide construction support of Rs. 820 crores to the Concessionaire during the construction period. Passing through the states of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, the Greenfield Access-Controlled Expressway will start from Deori village in Agra and terminate at Susera village in Gwalior.

The project will include construction of eight major bridges, 23 minor bridges, 6 flyovers, 1 rail-over-bridge, and 192

culverts. The project will also pass through the National Chambal wildlife sanctuary.

As part of wildlife mitigation measures, a cable stayed bridge on river Chambal has been planned for the conservation of 'Gadiyal' in the river waters. The 88 km long Expressway will provide high-speed connectivity between Agra and Gwalior, decongest several cities and industrial zones along the existing Agra-Gwalior section of NH-44, reduce travel time, lower the carbon footprint, and improve logistics efficiency for freight movement across the cities of Agra, Dholpur, Morena, and Gwalior.



Day Long Seminar on National Road Safety Policy 2025 Organized in New Delhi

On 1st May 2025, a day-long 'National Brainstorming Seminar on Road Safety Policy 2025' was organized by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and NHAI in New Delhi to enhance road safety, enable proactive measures and bring behavioral change among road users. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways; Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Ajay Tamta; Senior officials from MoRTH, NHAI, Secretary PWD, Secretary Transport, ADG (Traffic) of States, representatives of Education Ministry from Government of India, World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, Save Life Foundation, Road Safety Experts, DPR Consultants, Consultants, Contractors, Research institutions and NGOs were present on the occasion. The day-long deliberations and insightful panel

discussions were held with various stakeholders to suggest, highlight and reconcile measures pertaining to various aspects of road safety that can be implemented in the National Road Safety Policy to save precious lives.

The seminar focused on eight thematic areas, which will provide action plan for road safety. Panel discussions with stakeholders and industry experts were held on various topics which included Accident Spot Rectification & Proactive Hazard Mitigation, Improving Effectiveness of District Road Safety Committees, School Zone Road Safety, Behavioural Change & Effective Communication, Evidence Driven Enforcement, Implementation of Driver Training, Licensing & Policies, Strengthening Vehicular Safety Standards, Post Crash Response,

Highway Rescue and Cashless Treatment. Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari participated in the discussions and shared his valuable insights to enable thought provoking and impactful deliberations on different topics. He emphasized the need to intervene at the DPR stage of road building itself, whether it is broad engineering issues or school zones. Imploring the audience to find solutions grounded in data and evidence, he highlighted how small low-cost interventions can play a significant role in saving lives.

Shri Ajay Tamta, Hon'ble Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways encouraged all stakeholders to actively participate and make roads safer for every commuter & road user.



Setting the context of the seminar, Shri V Umashankar, Secretary, MoRTH said, "Road safety is a cause that touches every citizen. This brainstorming session is an important step towards shaping the National Road Safety Policy 2025. Our goal is to have concrete, evidence-based, and implementable recommendations across all aspects of road safety. We have a clear objective to drastically reduce fatalities by 2030. With the collective participation from all stakeholders, we can make India a global model for road safety.

This daylong seminar is a platform for collaborative action, and I am sure this will lead to building a safer, smarter road ecosystem across the country." Addressing the audience, Shri Vishal Chauhan, Member (Administration), NHAI emphasised that road safety needs to be addressed on a larger scale in a very holistic manner.

The seminar brought together all key stakeholders on a single platform for a focused, action-oriented dialogue. In line with the Government of India's mission to reduce road accident fatalities by 50% by the end of 2030, the day-long brainstorming session addressed important issues related to ensuring road safety for all and also helped outline key aspects that will contribute to shaping National Road Safety Policy 2025 across the country.



Transformative Years of National Highway Development

'Down the memory lane' is a series that revisits the glorious years of making of National Highways Authority of India. This series brings exclusive insights and captures the triumphs, milestones, challenges and experiences of former Chairmen of NHAI, who have steered NHAI to newer heights. Rajmaarg caught up with the former NHAI Chairman, Shri Sanjeev Ranjan and here are the excerpts from the conversation that highlights his tenure with the organisation.



Shri Sanjeev Ranjan, IAS
Former Chairman
National Highways Authority of India

NHAI, over the years, has made for itself a great name in the National Highway infrastructure development in the country and this has been possible because of the yeoman's service put in by the NHAI officials and the innovative practices that NHAI has adopted both for construction of National Highways as well as financing of the projects.

Before NHAI came into existence, the National Highways were looked after by the PWD of the state government. NHAI is an institution which brought about revolutionary changes in the way the contracts got executed in the country. From the old practice of item rate contracts, which the PWD used to execute, NHAI for the first time could leverage the huge potential of the private sector in its contracting mechanism.

For the first time, NHAI adopted the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) mode, a significant shift from the traditional approach to civil contracts. Even in the financing of road projects, which were primarily funded through the budget earlier, NHAI moved to the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model. Under this model, funding came from the private sector in the form of equity and loans from financial institutions.

This brought the revolutionary change in the pace at which the National Highways were constructed and improved. This brought some dramatic change which we see for ourselves today. NHAI with its organizational structure and the financing model that it adopted at that time set the trend not just in the road sector, but for other infrastructure sectors as well.

While NHAI has helped create the National Highway infrastructure, it has helped in improving the efficiency of the entire economy. It is mainly due to the dedicated service provided by everyone in NHAI, that today we as a country can aspire to be in the ranks of the developed countries in the next few years.

Building Expressways

While I was with NHAI, there were a whole lot of interesting things which happened and I'm thankful that I was part of that journey. Starting from the Expressways, which was a new thought process in terms of having highways, which were constructed based on scientific principles after proper determination of the load and the movement, which took place between various origin and destination points. While designing the Expressways, every effort

was made to have an alignment which is straight and takes the minimum time. This resulted in huge savings for the logistics sector. Trucks, which used to traverse the old National Highway alignment, would have to go through various turns, adding to problems of road safety. The new alignment of the Expressways, were straight wide roads with adequate thought having gone in designing it and making them greener. While I was with the NHAI, we were able to finalize alignment for 14 of the Expressways and for four Expressways, the work was also awarded. Innovative models were adopted in addition to BOT, the HAM model where the concessionaire was assured that part of the risk would be covered by the authority.

The banks also became interested in lending for such projects. This had a multiplier effect in the pace of construction that we could undertake.

Transforming Toll Collection

While the National Highways were being constructed at a higher pace, it was also necessary for us to collect the revenue to be able to repay the debt,

which was taken for some of these projects and to make it happen, one of the big changes which took place around the year 2017-18 was to transition from the old cash based practice of toll collection to 100% Electronic Toll Collection.

This was a major shift, and I am very happy that I was part of that journey in the year 2017-18. About 26% of the toll was collected through FASTag, though the system had been in vogue for more than ten years, but the idea of 100% tolling to be able to reduce the waiting time at the toll plazas was something that the entire NHAI team worked together and we could successfully implement the 100% Electronic Toll Collection arrangement through FASTag by systematically addressing the challenges which were there at that point of time.

Up till 2017, two lanes of the toll plazas had FASTag arrangement. The first challenge was to ensure that we equip all the lanes with FASTag readers and within a period of about six months, with the concerted effort of our field officers and the headquarter staff, we could ensure that all the toll plazas were enabled on all the lanes for 100% collection through e-tolling. Having done that, we adopted a gradual process of improving the availability of FASTag with the vehicle owners. Initially, the target was commercial

vehicles, and within a period of six months we were able to work with the banks to ensure that the commercial fleet largely had FASTag on them. As a result, by the year 2018, we could have all the trucks having FASTag and the toll collection from commercial vehicles went up substantially. The private vehicle owners also saw the advantage of FASTag and between the years

From just 26% adoption in 2017-18, almost all private vehicle owners have now switched to FASTag. We have reached a stage where over 98% of toll collection is done through Electronic Toll Collection (ETC). This shift has significantly reduced waiting time at toll plazas and simultaneously improved toll revenue, which has grown many folds, from approximately ₹20 crores per day about four years ago to much higher levels today.

The pace at which NHAI has been constructing National Highways has become an example for other organizations. With the leadership provided by the Government of India and the Hon'ble Minister for Road Transport and Highways, we have come a long way and, in the years to come we should be able to have an infrastructure, which will be better than the best in the world.



NHAI is like a large family

The NHAI as an organization in the government set up, I found was very different from a typical government department, where NHAI looked at itself as one large family and everyone got together on various occasions, be it for cricket, be it the annual cultural event that was held. It is the spirit of NHAI family, which meant that everyone worked together with the objectives of the organization foremost in their mind.

This is what has made NHAI an organization in the government set up which is different from others and it is this spirit which keeps the organization going and we have to value this spirit, which is absolutely a must for an organization to remain innovative and to be able to show the world a new way of doing things.

NHAI as I said, is like a large family and the interaction at various levels was not what one had come across in our typical government set up. The expectation was to solve the problems whether through consultation or exchange of ideas. I saw this happening at a very rapid pace where every innovative idea which helped in quicker delivery, efficient execution, resolving the problems at hand were given top priority and it is because of that spirit and NHAI culture that many of these projects that otherwise would have taken much longer for the other department to execute, NHAI could successfully do them in record time and has been able to build records year after year. The NHAI family has shown the leadership and has been able to prove that working together with a vision we can make it happen.

I am indeed proud and very glad that I was part of this journey. I would like to thank everyone whom I had an opportunity to work with to make it happen and bring about the major changes at that time.

I am absolutely confident, that with the kind of manpower NHAI has it will continue to innovate and find new ways of doing things to build the National Highway infrastructure in the country which is in keeping with the expectations of the people.

—(Shri Sanjeev Ranjan was NHAI Chairman from October 2018 till March 2019)



National Finale of 'Road Safety Hackathon 2025' Organised at NHAI HQ

On 7th April 2025, NHAI organized the national finale of the 'Road Safety Hackathon 2025' at NHAI HQ in New Delhi. Centred around the theme "Innovations for Pedestrian Crossing Facilities for a Safer and More Accessible Future", the event underscored the importance of inclusive and thoughtful infrastructure development. In his address, NHAI Chairman Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav emphasized the importance to improve pedestrian safety as part of India's journey towards building a world-class national highway network. The event was also graced by Shri Vishal Chauhan, Member (Admin), NHAI, Dr. Harikishan K Reddy, President, HOAI, and other senior officials.

The journey of the Hackathon began on 11th January with a curtain raiser event, setting

the stage for a nationwide call for ideas. It officially got live on 15th January, inviting participation from undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate students of any stream across the country. The Hackathon was structured across four stages. In the first stage, participants were required to submit a concept note of 750–1000 words; an overwhelming response was received with 4756 teams registering. Based on evaluation, only 200 teams were shortlisted for the second stage. Here, the participants submitted a detailed proposal of 2000–2500 words, including a case study and a user feedback survey.

After careful evaluation, 50 teams were selected as semi-finalists. In the third stage, semi-finalists prepared a presentation, and from five designated zones, a total of 10 teams were selected as finalists.

These teams representing premier educational institutes in technology and management presented their ideas to enhance pedestrian safety and facilities on the National Highways. The top three teams were adjudged winners and were felicitated for their pathbreaking ideas and innovative concepts. The first prize of ₹2 lakh, second prize of ₹1.5 lakh, and third prize of ₹1 lakh were awarded to the top three teams respectively. The remaining seven teams were also recognized and awarded consolation prizes of ₹50,000 each. On this occasion, a panel discussion was also organised which was chaired by Shri Rajeev Agrawal, Former-CGM, NHAI. The discussion explored various dimensions of road safety, including policy design & implementation as well as the transformative role of public awareness and behavioural change.



एनएचएआई में 'हेल्थ टॉक' का आयोजन

11 मार्च 2025 को एनएचएआई ने नई दिल्ली स्थित अपने मुख्यालय में एक विशेष स्वास्थ्य वार्ता 'स्वस्थ जीवन, स्वस्थ लिवर' का आयोजन किया, जिसमें जाने-माने डॉ. एस. के. सरिन ने लीवर के स्वास्थ्य, पाचन तंत्र की सेहत और निवारक देखभाल के महत्व के बारे में बताया।

डॉ. सरिन ने एक स्वस्थ जीवन शैली को बनाए रखने के लिए व्यावहारिक कदमों पर प्रकाश डाला। इस सत्र में एनएचएआई के अध्यक्ष श्री संतोष कुमार यादव, वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों

ने भाग लिया। मुख्यालय के साथ-साथ, इस सत्र को देश भर में फैले एनएचएआई क्षेत्रीय कार्यालयों में भी लाइव स्ट्रीम किया गया, जिससे सभी क्षेत्रों के कर्मचारियों को स्वस्थ सम्बन्धी जानकारी का लाभ मिल सके।





Naveen Jindal
@MPNaveenJindal

Traveling on National Highway 36 from Thanjavur towards Chennai today, and I must say—truly impressed with the world-class infrastructure!

Thank you Hon'ble PM @narendramodi ji & @nitin_gadkari ji for transforming India's road network from North to South, East to West.

@NHAI_Official @MORTHIndia



The 24x7 National #HighwayHelpline Number 1033, provides assistance both emergency and non-emergency situations for National Highway users. Here's how our #HighwayHeroes assisted a National Highway user on Dwarka Expressway. #NHAI #BuildingANation



sathishyadavborraju
Original audio



Excerpt Pawan Kumar Reddy 1033 petroling Feed back



Excerpt Pawan Kumar Reddy 1033 petroling Feed back



#NHAI is enhancing connectivity for over 80 villages along the Agra-Etawah National Highway (NH-19) in #UttarPradesh through the development of 8 vehicular underpasses. Here's what a resident from the Mohammadabad region shared about this positive impact. #BuildingANation



The 24x7 National #HighwayHelpline Number 1033, provides assistance in both emergency and non-emergency situations for National Highway users. Here's how our #HighwayHeroes assisted a National Highway user. #NHAI #BuildingANation



New Thanjavur- Kumbakonam Highway. Awesome @nitin_gadkari . Thank you @NHAI_Official @narendramodi @AmitShah @rajnathsingh @annamalai_j @SuryahSG @apmbjp



BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS.

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